

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior revisions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A one-piece fastening mechanism for attaching a molding piece to a housing structure, said fastening mechanism comprising a body portion having a distal end for insertion into an aperture associated with a housing structure, and a proximal end attached for attachment to the molding piece, said distal end having at least two bend points, said body portion having a first opening which extends longitudinally along substantially the full length of the body portion and a second opening which extends transversely through both the first opening and through opposed side portions of the body portion whereby said body portion and said second opening define a plurality of resiliently flexible detents spaced from the proximal end of the body portion, said plurality of detents being engageable with the housing structure when said body portion is inserted into the aperture associated with the housing structure thereby maintaining the molding piece in attachment with the housing structure.
2. (Original) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein said body portion is integrally attached to the molding piece.
3. (Original) The mechanism of claim 2 wherein said body portion is sufficiently flexible to be compressed during insertion into the aperture of the housing structure when pressure is applied at the proximal end of the body portion during such insertion.
4. (Currently Amended) The mechanism of claim 2 wherein said distal end includes two bend points spaced in parallel relationship to one substantial alignment with one another such that said body portion is sufficiently flexible to be compressed during insertion into the aperture of the housing structure when pressure is applied to the proximal end of the body portion during

such insertion and sufficiently resilient to return substantially to its original position when said plurality of detents pass the periphery of the housing aperture.

5. (Currently Amended) The mechanism of claim 4 wherein said detents are spaced in ~~substantially parallel relationship from substantial~~ alignment with one another on at least two opposed sides of the mechanism.

6. (Currently Amended) A one-piece mechanism associated with a vehicle body molding adapted to engage an aperture in a vehicle side panel comprising a body portion ~~attached at its~~ having a proximal end for attachment to a vehicle body molding, ~~said body portion and~~ having a distal end for insertion into an aperture in a vehicle side panel, said distal end having at least two bend points, said body portion further having a first opening extending longitudinally substantially the full length of the body portion and a second opening extending transversely completely therethrough whereby said second opening defines a plurality of detents spaced in substantial alignment with one another on at least two sides of the mechanism and spaced from the proximal end of the body portion, said plurality of detents maintaining the body portion within the aperture of a vehicle side panel when the mechanism is inserted therewithin.

7. (Original) The mechanism of claim 6 wherein said body portion is integrally attached to said vehicle body molding.

8. (Original) The mechanism of claim 7 wherein said body portion is sufficiently flexible to be compressed during insertion into the side panel aperture when pressure is applied against the distal end of the body portion and sufficiently resilient to return substantially to its original position when such pressure is removed.

9. (Original) The mechanism of claim 7 wherein said distal end includes two bend points spaced in substantial alignment with one another such that said body portion is sufficiently flexible to be compressed during insertion into the side panel aperture when pressure is applied against the distal end of the body portion during such insertion and sufficiently resilient to return substantially to its original position when said plurality of detents are pushed through the side panel aperture.

10. (Original) The mechanism of claim 6 wherein the shape of the body portion at its distal end includes two bend points, one bend point being located on one side portion of the body portion and the other bend point being located on an opposed side portion of the body portion adjacent the transverse opening.

11. (Original) The mechanism of claim 10 wherein the body portion is substantially in the shape of a hexagon at its distal end.

12. (Currently Amended) A one-piece mechanism for attaching a molding piece to a housing structure comprising a body portion having a distal end substantially in the shape of a hexagon for insertion into an aperture associated with a housing structure and a proximal end attached for attachment to the molding piece, said substantially hexagonally shaped distal end providing at least two bend points, said body portion having an opening which extends longitudinally along substantially the full length of the body portion and an opening which extends transversely through said body portion, said body portion further having a plurality of detents spaced from the proximal end of the body portion for maintaining the body portion in engagement with the housing structure, the body portion being sufficiently flexible to be compressed during insertion

within the housing aperture and being sufficiently resilient to return substantially to its original position when said plurality of detents are inserted through the housing structure.

13. (Currently Amended) Decorative trim for attaching to a side panel of a vehicle comprising a trim piece integrally attached to the proximal end of a body portion, the body portion having a distal end for insertion into an aperture associated with a vehicle side panel, said distal end having at least two bend points, said body portion further having a first opening extending longitudinally along substantially the full length of the body portion and a second opening extending transversely completely through the body portion, ~~whereby said body portion and the shape of~~ said second opening ~~define~~-defining a plurality of resiliently flexible detents spaced from the proximal end of the body portion for maintaining said body portion within the aperture associated with a vehicle side panel when said plurality of detents are inserted therewithin.

14. (Original) The decorative trim of claim 13 wherein said body portion is sufficiently flexible to be compressed during insertion into the aperture associated with a vehicle side panel when pressure is applied at the proximal end of the body portion during such insertion process, said body portion being sufficiently resilient to return substantially to its original position when said plurality of detents pass the periphery of the side panel aperture.

15. (Currently Amended) The decorative trim of claim 14 wherein said two bend points are located in spaced apart ~~substantially parallel relationship to~~ substantial alignment with each other.

16. (Currently Amended) The decorative trim of claim 15 wherein said plurality of detents are located in spaced in substantially parallel relationship from apart substantial alignment with one another on at least two opposed sides of said body portion.

17. (Currently Amended) A fastening member for attaching a first member to a second member wherein the second member includes an aperture, the fastening member comprising a body portion having a proximal end attached for attachment to the first member and a distal end for insertion into the aperture associated with the second member, said distal end having at least two flex points associated therewith, for allowing said body portion to compress during insertion into the aperture associated with the second member, said body portion further including a first opening extending longitudinally along substantially the full length of said body portion and a second opening extending transversely ~~to~~ through said first opening and through said body portion, said body portion and said second opening defining a plurality of barbs spaced from the proximal end of said body portion, ~~the distal end of said body portion being sufficiently flexible to be compressed during insertion into the aperture associated with the second member whereby the shape of said second opening substantially contributing to the formation of said plurality of barbs~~, said plurality of barbs ~~are~~ being moved into engagement with peripheral edge portions of the aperture when said body portion is inserted into the aperture associated with the second member.

18. (Original) The fastening member of claim 17 wherein at least the distal end of said body portion is substantially in the shape of a hexagon.

19. (Original) The fastening member of claim 17 wherein said second opening includes opposed side walls which are tapered along at least a portion of the length of said opening.

20. (Original) The fastening member of claim 17 wherein said second opening includes opposed side walls, said opposed side walls having two tapered portions along at least a portion of the length of said opening, the intersection of said tapered portions defining said plurality of flexible barbs.

21. (New) A one-piece mechanism associated with a vehicle body molding adapted to engage an aperture in a vehicle side panel comprising a body portion having a proximal end for attachment to a vehicle body molding and having a distal end for insertion into an aperture in a vehicle side panel, said body portion further having a first opening extending longitudinally substantially the full length of the body portion and a second opening extending transversely completely therethrough whereby said second opening defines a plurality of detents spaced in substantial alignment with one another on at least two sides of the mechanism and spaced from the proximal end of the body portion, said plurality of detents maintaining the body portion within the aperture of a vehicle side panel when the mechanism is inserted therein, the shape of the body portion at its distal end being substantially hexagonal and including at least two bend points, one bend point being located on one side portion of the body portion and the other bend point being located on an opposite side portion of the body portion adjacent the transverse opening.

22. (New) A fastening member for attaching a first member to a second member wherein the second member includes an aperture, the fastening member comprising a body portion having a proximal end for attachment to the first member and a distal end for insertion into the aperture associated with the second member, said distal end having at least two flex points associated therewith, said body portion further including a first opening extending longitudinally along

substantially the full length of said body portion and a second opening extending transversely through said first opening and through said body portion, said body portion and said second opening defining a plurality of barbs spaced from the proximal end of said body portion, the distal end of said body portion being substantially in the shape of a hexagon and being sufficiently flexible to be compressed during insertion into the aperture associated with the second member whereby said plurality of barbs are moved into engagement with peripheral edge portions of the aperture.

23. (New) A fastening member for attaching a first member to a second member wherein the second member includes an aperture, the fastening member comprising a body portion having a proximal end for attachment to the first member and a distal end for insertion into the aperture associated with the second member, said distal end having at least two flex points associated therewith, said body portion further including a first opening extending longitudinally along substantially the full length of said body portion and a second opening extending transversely through said first opening and through said body portion, said body portion and said second opening defining a plurality of barbs spaced from the proximal end of said body portion, said second opening including opposed side walls, said opposed side walls having two tapered portions along at least a portion of the length of said second opening, the intersection of said tapered portions defining said plurality of barbs, the distal end of said body portion being sufficiently flexible to be compressed during insertion into the aperture associated with the second member whereby said plurality of barbs are moved into engagement with peripheral edge portions of the aperture.

24. (New) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein the length of said body portion is at least approximately twice as long as it is wide.

25. (New) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein said at least two bend points are located on opposed side walls of said body portion, said at least two bend points being separated from one another by a distance which is less than the length of a side wall of the body portion which does not include said at least two bend points.

26. (New) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein said at least two bend points are located on opposed side walls of said body portion, said at least two bend points being separated from one another by a distance which is greater than the length of a side wall of the body portion which does not include said at least two bend points.

27. (New) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein the distal end portion of said body portion includes opposed side walls, the shape of the distal end portion associated with at least some of said opposed side walls being concave.

28. (New) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein the distal end portion of said body portion includes opposed side walls, the shape of the distal end portion associated with at least some of said opposed side walls being convex.